



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 1996

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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### WISCONSIN, Southeast

WIZ060-066-071

Ozaukee - Milwaukee - Racine

05	1100CST	0	0	0	Heavy Snow
06	1900CST				

Fluffy lake-effect snow accumulated up to 7.5 inches over Southeast Wisconsin. The Milwaukee Airport picked up 7.5 inches followed by 6.3 in the city of Racine and 6.0 at Cedar Grove (Ozaukee county). The snow shower intensity forced a temporary closure of one main runway at Milwaukee. About 100 vehicle accidents were reported due to slippery roads.

WIZ070

Walworth

09	0500CST	1	0	0	Cold Temperature
	0900CST				

Cold temperatures around the freezing mark resulted in a hypothermia death of an elderly man in Elkhorn. He apparently fell out of his wheelchair and could not get back into it. M89OU

WIZ059>060-064>066-069>072

Washington - Ozaukee - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Rock - Walworth - Racine - Kenosha

16	0800CST	0	0	0	Freezing Rain
	1130CST				

Freezing rain quickly coated roads, bridges, overpasses, and sidewalks over parts of Southeast and Southcentral Wisconsin. Ice accumulations were about 1/8 inch, however, the glazing resulted in about 300 vehicle accidents. Area hospitals were deluged with indirectly related vehicle or personal injuries. Some ambulance services briefly ran out of ambulances. At least 242 people were hospitalized (indirectly related to glazing).

Waukesha County

Merton

17	0440CST	0	0	15K	Lightning
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Lightning struck a home, starting a roof fire. Curtains in the home caught on fire, and several electrical outlets were blown out of the walls.

WIZ070

Walworth

18	0500CST	1	0	0	Cold Temperature
	0900CST				

Cold temperatures in the single digits resulted in a hypothermia death of an elderly Elkhorn man. M88OU

WIZ071

Racine

18	1230CST	0	0		Flood
19	0400CST				

A rapid warm-up along with light to moderate rain brought some rapid rises and minor low-land flooding to Southeast Wisconsin. Temperatures in the 50s melted almost all of the existing snowcover. The Root River at Raymond (Racine county) crested at 8.42 feet at 1805CST on the 18th, or .42 feet above flood stage.

WIZ072

Kenosha

19	1445CST	0	0		Flood
	2345CST				

A rapid warm-up along with light to moderate rain brought some rapid rises and minor low-land flooding to some rivers in Southeast Wisconsin. Temperatures jumped into the 50s, resulting in rapid melting of almost all of the existing snowcover. At New Munster on the Fox River in Kenosha county, there was a crest of 10.07 feet at 1900CST on the 19th, or .07 feet over flood stage

WIZ056>058-063>066-069>072

Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Dane - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Rock - Walworth - Racine - Kenosha

23	0400CST	0	0	0	Freezing Rain
	1300CST				

Over Southcentral and Southeast Wisconsin a mixture of freezing rain and a snow accumulation of 1 to 4 inches made road surfaces extremely slippery. At least 100 vehicle accidents were reported. In Kenosha county 12 people were briefly hospitalized (indirectly related glazing). Many schools delayed the start classes by a couple hours.



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### WISCONSIN, Southeast

**WIZ051>052-059>060**      **Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Washington - Ozaukee**  
**23**      **0900CST**      **0**      **0**      **0**      **Heavy Snow**  
                 **1500CST**

A convective-like heavy snow affected a small part of Eastcentral Wisconsin and left accumulations of 6 inches or more. Sheboygan and Random Lake, both in Sheboygan county, gathered 6.5 inches. Six inches fell at Dundee (Fond du Lac county), in West Bend (Washington county), and over the far northwest corner of Ozaukee county. About 50 vehicle accidents were reported. Two people in Fond du Lac county were briefly hospitalized (indirectly related to heavy snow) due to a vehicle accident

**WIZ046>047-051>052**      **Marquette - Green Lake - Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan**  
**25**      **1200CST**      **0**      **0**      **Heavy Snow**  
                 **2000CST**

A fast-moving low pressure system dumped heavy snow in a swath across Central and Eastcentral Wisconsin. Eight inches of snow accumulated at Fond du Lac (Fond du Lac county), and near Greenbush (Sheboygan county). Further west, up to 6 to 7 inches were reported at Berlin (Green Lake county) and Neshkoro (Marquette county). At least 80 vehicle accidents resulted from the slippery roads and 6 people were briefly hospitalized due to associated injuries (indirectly related to glazing event)

**WIZ046>047-051>052-056>060-062>065-067>069**      **Marquette - Green Lake - Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Washington - Ozaukee - Iowa - Dane - Jefferson - Waukesha - Lafayette - Green - Rock**  
**26**      **0000CST**      **0**      **0**      **0**      **Heavy Snow**  
**27**      **0400CST**

A major winter storm deposited heavy snow over Southcentral and parts of Southeast Wisconsin. For some counties it was the worst storm in many years. Snowfalls reported include 15 inches at Berlin and Markesan (Green Lake county); 14 inches at Marshall (Dane county); 13.4 inches in Madison (Dane county); 12 inches in Dodgeville (Iowa county), Wisconsin Dells (Columbia county), Montello (Marquette county), and Plymouth (Sheboygan county); 10 inches at Baraboo (Sauk county), Belmont (Lafayette county), and Fond du Lac (Fond du Lac county); 8.1 inches in Sullivan (Jefferson county) and Sheboygan (Sheboygan county); and 6 inches in Oconomowoc (Waukesha county) and Janesville (Rock county)

The snow became convective as lightning and thunder put on a show in the afternoon hours. Snowfall rates peaked at 3 to 4 inches per hour, with Madison gathering 8 inches in only 2 hours! Coupled with northeast to northwest winds gusting to 40 mph this snowfall rate lowered visibilities to near zero at times. Snowplow crews were pulled off the roads in many areas by 1900CST. There were at least 800 vehicle accidents (indirectly related to the storm), and 6 people were briefly hospitalized. Airplane flights were delayed several hours. Interstate 90/94 was closed in stretches around Madison. Scattered power outages resulted in about 500 customers losing electricity in the Sheboygan to Milwaukee area. Many schools canceled classes, or dismissed students early; and many evening high school basketball games were canceled.

**WIZ046>047-051>052-056>060-062>072**      **Marquette - Green Lake - Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Washington - Ozaukee - Iowa - Dane - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Lafayette - Green - Rock - Walworth - Racine - Kenosha**  
**29**      **0500CST**      **0**      **0**      **0**      **Blizzard**  
                 **1600CST**

A rare, widespread ground blizzard tormented Southcentral and Southeast Wisconsin with the worst whiteout conditions ever experienced by some residents and travelers. Some drivers described it as "driving into a ball of cotton." The whiteout conditions occurred primarily in open, exposed areas. A fresh snowcover of 1 to 3 inches on top of an older cover of 6 to 20 inches was easily blown around by winds frequently gusting over 35 mph. Otherwise, bright sunshine was the rule in villages and urban areas where visibilities never went below 1.5 miles. The peak wind gusts was 54 mph in Waukesha (Waukesha county), while everyone else had gusts into the 40 to 49 mph range. There was an unofficial gust to 60 mph (52 knots) on an exposed ridge near Pewaukee (Waukesha county).

Several hundred vehicle accidents resulted, with the worst one being two 14-vehicle accidents along the same stretch of I-94 in



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		Local/ Standard	Length (Miles)	Width (Yards)	Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

### WISCONSIN, Southeast

Racine county. At least 33 people were briefly hospitalized because of the accidents (indirectly related to ground blizzard). Portions of the Interstates and other highways were closed from time to time. Many schools delayed their opening times or canceled classes. Service stations and police/sheriff dispatchers were overwhelmed.

WIZ046>047-051>052-  
056>060-062>072

**Marquette - Green Lake - Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Washington - Ozaukee - Iowa - Dane - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Lafayette - Green - Rock - Walworth - Racine - Kenosha**

30	0200CST 2359CST	2	0	0	Extreme Windchill
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After the previous day's ground blizzard, very cold arctic air poured into Southern Wisconsin on northwest winds of 10 to 25 mph. Wind chills dropped to 35 to 45 below zero. Maximum temperatures only made it to 3 above zero in Milwaukee (Milwaukee county) after overnight lows across Southern Wisconsin of 5 below to 15 below. There was one directly-related hypothermia death in both Kenosha and Lafayette counties. There was an indirectly-related death in Sheboygan county. M85OU, M31OU

WIZ046>047-051>052-  
056>060-062>072

**Marquette - Green Lake - Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Washington - Ozaukee - Iowa - Dane - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Lafayette - Green - Rock - Walworth - Racine - Kenosha**

31	0000CST 2359CST	0	10	Extreme Cold
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Arctic air continued to pour into Southern Wisconsin on northwest winds of 10 to 20 mph. Morning lows dipped to 29 below zero in Monroe (Green county), 23 below in Plymouth (Sheboygan county), 21 below in Madison (Dane county), and 20 below zero (a new daily record) in Waukesha (Waukesha county). Wind chills dropped into the 40 below to 60 below range as daytime temperatures never recovered to zero. Ten people were treated in hospitals for frostbite injuries: one in Sheboygan county, 7 in Milwaukee county, and 2 in Racine county. Service stations were overwhelmed with calls for assistance, and hardware stores reported a booming business due to the demand for space heaters, snow blowers, and other cold-weather gear.